



The Maine Farmer.

N. T. TRUE, Editor.
S. L. BOARDMAN, Editor.

Our Home, Our Country, and our Brother Man.

Agricultural Fairs—1868.

Proctor, at Bangor, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 20th, 21st and 22d.
Kennebec Union, at Merrill's Fair Grounds, West Gardiner, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 21st and 22d.
Kennebec Association, at South China, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 20th, 21st and 22d.

Town Shows.
Moose, Westbrook and adjoining towns, at Moose Trading Park, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 20th and 21st.
Moose and Bangor, at West Moose, Wednesday and Thursday, Oct. 21st and 22d.
Wassata, Tuesday, Oct. 20th.

The Fair in Portland.

We surrender a large space in our paper this week to the details of the exhibition of the State Society in Portland, which we doubt not will possess sufficient interest to our readers to warrant us in so doing.

The exhibition as a whole, may be truly called a most successful one—perhaps the best ever held in the State, although only deficient in some respects. The exhibits were the highest excellence was attainable had a proper interest been manifested by those who contributed and worthy have contributed to those departments. The display of fruit and farm and garden products in former years has been vastly superior; and although nothing was left to be desired in regard to the quality of the neat stock exhibited, the number of animals of equal merit might and should have been trebled and even quadrupled. As it was, with a few scattering and noteworthy exceptions, only the country of the State was represented, while the representation in the several counties had a representation almost equally limited. Now that the annual fairs of the Society have been resumed under such encouraging auspices, we shall expect to see a marked improvement in these respects in the future exhibitions of the Society.

Indian Corn.

After our talk about farming in New England, there is no subject so pertinent as the full of long ears of the golden grain. It almost involuntarily makes us feel as though we could tell the man's standing in society by the looks of his corn after harvesting.

Corn seems to act as a great lever in all the affairs of the farm. It furnishes the loaf of brown bread not indistinguishable with baked beans, and so good with meat of kinds of heavy food. It comes so nicely into play in fattening the hogs. The pig corn and ears can be ground up and made good feed for fattening swine. A little meal always comes in play to give to the milk cows in winter. It helps make a flow of rich milk. In the spring when the corn work had with a little meal always does them good, while the faithful horse seldom refuses it in the absence of oats. It helps lengthen out the four barrel, and if there be a little surplus corn it can always be exchanged for store bills or cash. Then the corn fodder goes for good ways in feeding out to cattle.

We have intimated that a good corn crop indicated a good farmer. This is true. A slovenly farmer not only will not be so good, but he will not be so good as a farmer who is so good. There is no crop that pays so well for careful treatment as corn. In rightly preparing the ground, by carefully cultivating and manuring and equally careful planting, the farmer of Maine may almost always be sure of a good crop. A good farmer recently informed us that he put his manure in the hill in furrows and then run his cultivator between the furrows, throwing the earth towards the hill leaving the hills in a shallow, rough-plowed channel. Then he planted his corn. The effect was if there were heavy rains it would drain well, and if dry weather the corn would not wither up. We think well of the practice. Special attention to preparing the bed for the seed pays well.

When the corn is ready to weed out, it pays well to hoe it thoroughly. As an old farmer once expressed himself, "Corn does love to be tickled the best of anything I ever saw."

High cultivation should never be lost sight of in raising corn in New England. Corn is the greatest feeder of manure of anything we raise. Manure is rarely ever furnished in excess if it is well incorporated with the soil. We are inclined to the belief that corn would bear in this way double the manure usually applied without detriment to the crop. This, however, would not generally be advisable, and we only allude to it to show the nature of the plant in cultivation.

In connection with an abundance of manure, it will be a good deal of cultivation. We have seen farmers who have simply cultivated between the rows just after it was up and had a beneficial tendency on the plants. At any rate if the land is dry it is an excellent plan to take advantage of a weedy and cultivate between the rows quite soon after planting. It levels down the earth and pulverizes it as well as kills the noxious weeds that start into life. With improved cultivators hoeing corn is a very easy process.

We do not think the practice of raising corn in rows will ever be held aside except on farms not adapted to its cultivation. We are aware that some farmers coat the soil too great, but the trouble is that when autumn comes they have no corn.

On Ventilation.

Perhaps our readers may think it is hardly necessary to say anything in an agricultural paper upon this subject, or to offer any remarks to farmers in regard to the question of ventilation, for most of them will immediately think their houses and other buildings already possess practical ventilation and will not be so easily deceived. This is a mistake. We are aware that many, many farm buildings are suffered to remain open to the elements—to the winds, the snows and the rains of the seasons—and are, as we should properly term it, too well ventilated already. But by ventilation is meant not exactly this thing. We mean that condition of our houses and stables which shall allow the circulation of just enough pure air at all times to be conducive to health, and at the same time to prevent the entrance of the elements—keep warm, dry and comfortable. Twenty years ago or so, there was no necessity of referring to this subject as regards the farmers of Maine. Our houses as then constructed admitted the air freely, and the pure air was present in all portions of the building—the kitchen, the parlor and especially the sleeping rooms, for nearly every room was furnished with its large, open mouthed fire-place, through which a current of air was always passing up and out of the huge chimney, always in its course the entire room of vitiated air, was swept away by the health-renewing, life-giving atmosphere. But even farmers' houses of to-day are not the same as those of yesterday, or of years gone by, when our fathers were in their prime, and we were boys at the old homestead. The open room has been changed for one so tight as lumber, mortar, and glazing can make it, and the great fireplaces have given away to the mod-

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"How is it produced?" It is produced from eggs which the parent or mother louse lays and covers with her own body which after her death and in the winter acts as a shield and protection for the eggs. In the spring, or after the first spell of warm continued weather, these eggs hatch and a minute louse, hardly larger than the point of a pin comes out and disperses over the tree faster than fly by its back to some tender place in the bark and begins to suck out the sap and grow, till by fall it is full grown, and if a female ready to prepare its eggs for its successors.

The answer to the above query includes all the points in the remaining ones. There is another and more practical side to the question, to which our correspondent desires to know. Is it best to be effectively done so as to prevent their injurious operations. On large trees they may be scraped off at any season of the year, and the scorpings thus obtained destroyed. But on small trees, limbs and twigs, this is not effectual. The method then that we should prefer, and the one recommended at the discussion last week at Portland when this question was up, is to wash the affected part of the tree with some alkaline wash, as strong soda, weak ley, etc., when the louse is just hatching out or are young and tender, and this will be in the spring, say the last of May or first of June.—E.D.

Opening of the Agricultural College.

We are pleased to record the fact that a forward motion has been made in regard to operations in the agricultural college at Orono, and that the collegiate year has opened with a fair prospect of success. It is to be expected of course that operations for a while will be necessarily somewhat irregular, and with the means at command the experienced and prudent professors will not be able to push things forward with the regularity and effectiveness of an older organization. While we hope for and expect that good will result from each season's studies and labors on the farm and in the college, we must not expect too much. Such enterprises attain their excellencies by degrees. Our college is yet in its infancy and needs careful watching and fostering, and above all we need to be charitable to our opponents as expressed in regard to it. Let us as we mind unite to make it what we can, and let us forward the interests of agriculture, intelligence and practical education in Maine.

The Borer.

We are gratified to announce to our fruit growing readers who have been troubled with these destructive pests that we have succeeded remarkably well by sending the children around early in the spring to the strips of cloth around the tree close to the ground six or eight inches in height. In an instance only they hit the borer above the cloth. This is much easier than to be following them with knife in hand. It appears to us now a simple and complete remedy.

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State Agricultural Society.

Maine State Fair.

The Seventh Annual Exhibition of the Maine State Agricultural Society, was held in Portland on Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday and Friday, Oct. 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th, 1868. The last exhibition of the Society prior to that of the present year was held in Portland in 1860. Owing to bad weather and other adverse circumstances, the exhibition of the year 1867, was a financial point of view, a failure, although in most respects it embraced a more varied and attractive programme representing the agricultural and other industrial interests of the State, than on any previous occasion. The coming on of the war and the refusal of the Legislature to continue the annual allowance to the Society, discouraged the Trustees from assuming the risk of subsequent exhibitions until the present year. At the annual meeting held in this city in January last, a vote was unanimously passed advising the Trustees, if in their judgment it should be deemed expedient, to make arrangements for a resumption of the annual Fair of the Society. Acting upon these instructions, and taking counsel of the leading members of the Society, and other active and influential agriculturists of the State, the Trustees finally decided to hold the seventh State Fair at Portland on the 6th, 7th, 8th and 9th inst. Without funds and without any guarantee of success except the confidence felt in the generally expressed interest of the people of the State in the enterprise, and the generally professed co-operation of the friends of the Society, the Trustees assumed the risk and responsibility of the exhibition. The result has proved a complete success, exceeding even with the concurrence of all favoring circumstances, the most sanguine anticipations, and placing the pecuniary resources of the Society upon a basis which will materially relieve its future operations from the embarrassments and uncertainty which have attended the management of its affairs in the past.

Owing to the pressure of other duties which devolved upon us, we were unable to devote time to the examination of the exhibition in detail, and shall, therefore, be largely indebted to the reports of some of our daily contemporaries, which are very full and accurate. The reports of the Portland Press and Boston Journal are entitled to special commendation in this regard.

First Day.

The exhibition of neat stock, horses, and other animals and agricultural implements took place at the city Park, in Westbrook, about two miles from the city, and the exhibition of fine arts, machinery, fowl, horticultural, farm and dairy products, manufactured articles, and other articles, which were admirably adapted to the purpose. The Park contains a half-mile track, which however, was in very poor condition for the exhibition of racing, and the exhibition of various farm and dairy products, manufactured articles, and other articles, which were admirably adapted to the purpose.

The Bark Louse.

MESSRS. EDITORS:—The bark louse or scale—what is its nature? How is it produced? How long does it remain after its first appearance, and in what manner does it disappear? Yours very truly, J. G. DEXTER.

NOTE: The bark louse which is found upon the limbs, stems and twigs of the apple-trees in New England is scientifically termed *Aspidiotus conchiformis*, or the oyster shell bark louse, from its resemblance to an oyster-shell, in shape. We will endeavor to answer the queries of our correspondent, briefly: "What is its nature?" It is decidedly injurious to the tree for it sucks out the juice of the tree and robs it of nutriment to that extent. It belongs to the order of insects known as *Homoptera*. They are furnished with a sucking tube, and are very numerous. The plant louse family is a large one and very numerous. They are also at certain times exceedingly destructive. There is hardly a plant that the farmer cultivates as a farm crop but

